

Academic Affairs

News & Reflections

From the Provost's Desk

As we head into the final weeks of the fall 2017 semester I hope you will take time to reflect on the progress we have made institutionally in enrollment, quality programs, and our sense of pride and community. We are wrapping up the revision to our 2020 strategic plan this December and I have heard about some of the great feedback and recommendations you have provided to the strategic planning committee to incorporate in the plan. If you have not already done so, please take time to submit your thoughts on WCU's direction for the next five to seven years by completing the input form at strategicplan.wcu.edu (deadline is December 1, 2017).

I wish you and yours a safe and peaceful Thanksgiving Holiday!



Sincerely,

Alison Morrison-Shetlar
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Provost on the Ground

Diversity in Careers Panel Series- Women's Panel	Nov. 6
Three Minute Thesis Competition	Nov. 8
Etiquette Reception	Nov. 13
Interdisciplinary Humanities Conference	Nov. 14
HHS International Showcase	Nov. 15
Guest Speaker for "University Skills and US Culture" class	Nov. 17
Catamount School Advisory Board	Nov. 27
Board of Trustees Retreat	Nov. 29-30

Curriculog Training Sessions



We will have several Curriculog training sessions in the near future for those who utilize our curriculum management system to create new programs/courses, make program/course changes, or review curriculum proposals.

These training sessions will give you an opportunity to learn hands-on how to:

- enter a proposal in Curriculog
- run an impact report
- create a meeting agenda
- record decisions as a reviewer

At these sessions we will provide an overview of available resources, present the overall Curriculog program structure, review the style guide, and highlight the new proposal form options. The sessions will be beneficial to both new users and seasoned users alike.

Please reserve your seat in one of the sessions! Contact Suzanne Melton, Curriculog Administrator x3016

Date of next session:

- December 8, 10:00-11:30 am

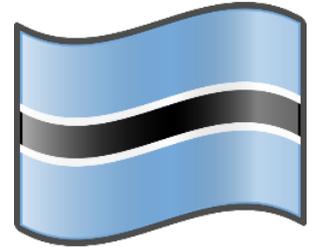
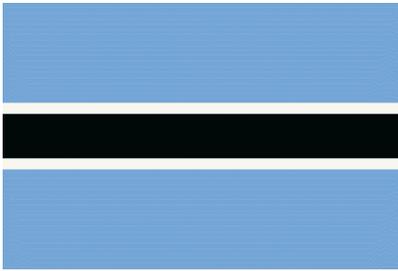
Updates from Undergraduate Studies

from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

This is already a record year for engaged and experiential learning opportunities at WCU. Our mission of fostering these experiences is partly realized in the support Undergraduate Studies provides across our division. Check out these examples from the current year...

Botswana Delegation

Fourteen professionals from the African nation of Botswana spent two weeks in the US as part of a reciprocal relationship with WCU, the US State Department, State of North Carolina, and UNC Greensboro. Faculty members Amy Rose (Communication Sciences and Disorders) and Karena Cooper Duffy (School of Teaching and Learning) have established relationships with counterparts in Botswana and led WCU student groups there over several summers. During these visits, Botswanans receive professional development in working with individuals with severe disabilities and speech disorders, while our faculty and students learn to work in a developing nation on another continent.



Philosophy and Religion

Students enrolled in PAR 260, Women and Religion, engage with women representing nine different religions as part of their speaker series. Instructor Amy McKenzie requested and received Intentional Learning funding to support the guest speakers' class participation.



Psychology Service Learning

In Ellen Sigler's PSY 326 Psychological Perspectives on Developmental Disability class, her students learn by doing. "Working with LIFESPAN services," an organization that works with adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, students develop appropriate activities for adults. Their efforts culminate in an Activity Expo when LIFESPAN transports the adults to campus, and students interact with them through the activities they have created. Based on students' requests to have additional opportunities to work with adults from the community, Ellen also incorporates participants of Arc of Haywood County (an organization that works primarily with adults with intellectual disabilities) in her class. Ellen receives funding for her students to create materials and run the activity expo.

Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation Update

from the Executive Director for Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation

Dr. Salido is busy promoting the great things that we are doing at WCU across the region. In addition to his work in Jackson County, he recently traveled to Clay, Henderson, Buncombe, and Mitchell during the month of October to talk with economic developers and county and business leaders to find partnership opportunities. His recent activities include:

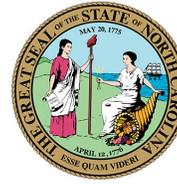
- Attending events that can expand WCU's network with the region including: area chambers of commerce meetings, business and company events, economic development meetings, conferences, and trade shows
- Speaking engagements at regional venues like rotary clubs, county board meetings, or various organization events
- Representing WCU on regional and state boards
- Writing promotional materials to assist regional and state business recruitment of high-level businesses like the new Amazon Headquarters
- Being awarded \$5000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to conduct a natural products industry market analysis with Wendy Cagle and Yue Hillon
- Working with faculty to connect students to internships
- Presenting WCU's role in regional economic development at the Metro Economy Outlook
- Meeting with SylvanSport in Brevard to discuss the Outdoor Gear LEAD conference that is being planned for October 2018
- Meeting with regional leaders to develop a LEAD Agriculture conference
- Meeting with regional leaders to discuss how WCU can impact broadband availability in WNC. A recent survey was sent out in support of that effort. A LEAD broadband conference is being planned.
- Attending the Brushy Fork Institute and meeting with the Rural Center to discuss WCU's role in leadership training for rural leaders, such as developing a non-profit leadership institute
- Working with leaders in Asheville to promote the natural products industry

He will be meeting with program directors across all colleges during the next 4-6 weeks. Meetings will give program directors and department heads the opportunity to understand his role and the opportunity to suggest how he can help programs achieve their engagement goals.

Governor Cooper Proclaims Hispanic Heritage Month

from the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer

On October 5, 2017, Governor Roy Cooper signed a proclamation declaring September 15 - October 15 Hispanic Heritage Month in North Carolina. In the proclamation, the governor recognized the many contributions of Hispanic and Latino North Carolinians.



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
ROY COOPER

“North Carolina is a richer, more vibrant place thanks to countless contributions from generations of Hispanics and Latinos,” Gov. Cooper said.

Governor Cooper also signed Executive Order No. 23, establishing the Governor’s Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

To help advise him on issues important to Hispanic/Latino North Carolinians, Governor Cooper has appointed Western Carolina University's Chief Diversity Officer, Ricardo Nazario y Colón, to join the Governor’s Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

Ricardo is also a member of the Western Carolina University's Cherokee Center Advisory Board, and he has previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Please visit the following site for more information on Executive Order No. 23 <https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO23%20-%20Governor%27s%20Advisory%20Council%20on%20Hispanic-Latino>



WCU staff supporting our homecoming parade by participating in a float.

Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR) Accommodations

from the Office of Student Success



The most common accommodations students receive through the Office of Accessibility Resources are testing accommodations. This includes extended time (usually time-and-a-half or double time); a separate, reduced-distraction environment; use of a computer to type essays; use of a reader or text-to-speech assistive technology; or use of a scribe or speech-to-text technology. OAR understands that faculty members may not have the space, time, or technology to proctor these accommodated tests. Therefore we offer, as a service to faculty, accommodated test proctoring at our office. Each semester, OAR proctors between 400-500 individual accommodated tests. In fall 2016, OAR proctored 498 tests, including 152 individual final exams. In spring 2017, OAR proctored 438 tests, including 120 individual final exams. This semester, we have already surpassed the numbers for this time last fall.

To help us accommodate so many tests, OAR has five dedicated rooms and two other rooms we can use during peak demand. Each of the dedicated testing rooms is equipped with cameras that allow us to monitor activity from our desktop computers. While we do not have the bandwidth to record all test sessions, we do monitor the cameras live and will record randomly, as well as completing regular visual walk-by's of the testing rooms. All test proctoring is done in accordance with the instructions of the faculty member. Students are required to leave with us any materials not approved by their instructor and students are not allowed to take phones into testing rooms. Our staff monitors time and will ensure that test-takers are stopped at the appropriate time (per their accommodation and/or per the instructor's directions). OAR has four laptop computers and one desktop computer, each equipped with text-to-speech capabilities. In addition, we have both four-function and graphing calculators to loan to students during testing.

In order for students to utilize our testing facilities, they must have received from OAR and delivered to their instructors Letters of Accommodation specifying the approved testing accommodations. The student then must contact OAR three days prior to any test (one week for final exams) with basic information about the test: class prefix and number, instructor name, date and time the class is taking the test, and date and time the student is taking the test. We realize that, sometimes, in order for a student to receive extended time and not miss other classes, the student may have to schedule their test proctoring for a different time than the class. In these cases, it is the student's responsibility to notify their instructor and receive approval to

take the test at a different time. Once OAR has received the information for the test, we will contact the instructor via email with a form letter requesting proctoring instructions, as well as test delivery and return instructions.

This semester OAR is working to increase our efficiency in this process, beginning with a pilot form through which students will request test proctoring. We hope that by utilizing this form, we can reduce error, missed information, and the number of communications with students in setting up test proctoring. We hope to begin utilizing the form for all students requesting test proctoring by spring semester 2018. If you would like more information on our test proctoring, procedures, and/or testing facilities, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources in 135 Killian Annex, or at (828) 227-3886.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Professional Development Workshops

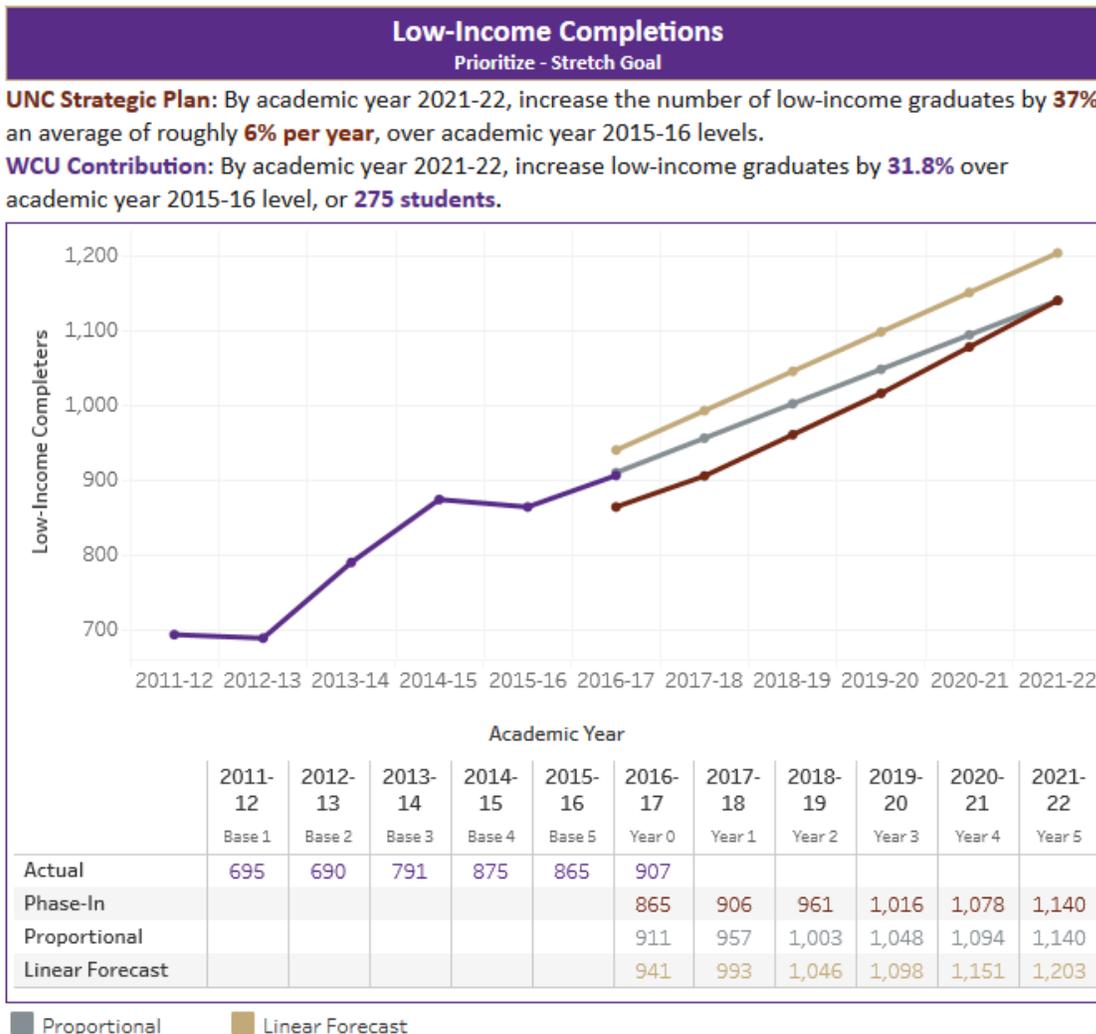
from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness in partnership with the Coulter Faculty Commons, is offering workshops on developing and assessing program-level student learning outcomes. Four workshops are offered in November (November 6, 7, 28 and 29). The workshop are 90 minutes, 2:30 – 4:00pm. Register for a workshop here: https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3pFNsVq2x7ascdv For additional information, please contact Steve Wallace, Director of Assessment, x2580.

UNC Strategic Plan metric tracking

from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

In September, WCU’s target contributions towards the University of North Carolina Strategic Plan goals were finalized as part of a signed performance agreement between WCU and the UNC system. The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness has built UNC Strategic Metrics dashboards to track progress towards the goals over the next five years. The dashboards are located on WCU’s Tableau Public site, located here: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/office.of.institutional.planning.and.effectiveness#!/>



National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

from the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

The National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) was established in 1987 and is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity in all fields of study. WCU has a long record of accomplishment in the number of students presenting at NCUR. In April 2017, Western had nearly 70 student abstracts accepted for presentation at the national conference at the University of Memphis and WCU, led by the Honors College, was able to support 50 students in attending and presenting their research at that meeting.

This year's NCUR will be held on April 4-7, 2018 at the University of Central Oklahoma. Students can submit abstracts for consideration from October 3 – December 5, 2017. By visiting the NCUR website (http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/student_events/ncur_2018/) students can learn more about the abstract submission process and view the timeline for NCUR 2018.



Students who are submitting an abstract to the 2018 NCUR conference must also complete the NCUR Travel Support Funding Request in order to be eligible for travel support. The simple online request form is available on the Honors College website (honors.wcu.edu) under Undergraduate Research. The Travel Support Funding Request form will be inactive after December 5, 2017; therefore, students are urged to complete the Funding Request form at the time they submit their abstracts to NCUR. Students who are supported by WCU, are expected to attend the entire NCUR conference (April 4-7, 2018). If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Undergraduate Research Coordinator, Kloo Hansen at kchansen@wcu.edu.

Staff Spotlight

Courtney Gauthier

Associate Director of Career Integrated Learning



Courtney Gauthier is the Associate Director of Career Integrated Learning in the Center for Career and Professional Development. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC, and her Master of Arts in College Student Development from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

Courtney loves to travel! Anytime; anywhere. She loves to explore new places not only down the street, but around the globe. Courtney and her partner often hit the road for a weekend trip or save up for international experiences. This past summer, they were able to achieve a goal of theirs which was to live abroad for a month. They were able to spend five incredible weeks in Spain. Courtney always tries to encourage others to travel, explore, and learn about other cultures, to experience a new way of life, to eat amazing (and not so amazing) new foods, to hear new sounds, and to try to understand new ways of existing in the world.

Courtney has other hobbies like listening to podcasts, hanging out at coffee shops, and trying new pizza places. She also deeply enjoys learning, mostly through reading articles and watching documentaries. She is particularly interested in explorations of meaning and purpose, astronomy, cosmology, social justice work and her own growth as an ally, career trends, and advances in technology, especially artificial and assistive intelligence, and the potential impact of these

advances on the future of the workforce, workplace, and society. She is curious and has the desire to continually learn something new and to make new connections.

Courtney is a first-generation college student, and this is part of what drives her passion for career development. Courtney views her job as a form of social justice work, empowering students to see their own potential and helping them shape the lives they want to live. Career development is so much more than a job, it is our whole life in Courtney's opinion. It is determining who we are and how we want to be in the world. Teaching the tools necessary to find and apply for jobs, internships, fellowships, and graduate school is her way of helping others achieve their goals. She also loves to laugh and to make others laugh. She loves the idea of sharing joy with others to connect and to nourish beings.

Courtney's favorite quote is, "as far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being," by Carol Jung. This quote inspires Courtney to focus her energy on being a light to others, and this quote motivates Courtney to do what she needs to do. It also means that there is no one exact way to be, and that we all have different gifts to create the unique light we bring to others.

Faculty Spotlight

Kristy Doss

Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, Special Education



Kristy Doss is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Teaching and Learning, Special Education.

She earned her PhD Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology from the University of Georgia in 2013, and Majored in Gifted Education. Her Dissertation was on the Portrait of Olivia: A Case Study of a Spiritually Gifted Child. She earned her Masters of Education in Gifted Education from Western Carolina University in 2008. She was recognized as a North Carolina Certified Writing Instructor in 2004, and received her AIG Certification from UNC-Charlotte in 2003. She received her National Board Certification for Early Adolescence English / Language Arts in 2002, and earned her BS in Middle School Education from Appalachian State University in 1995.

Kristy just launched a new program for elementary, middle, and high school students called Novel Inventions. Students read four books and then complete three challenges that require them to bring characters and ideas together from the different novels to create inventions, solve problems, and address real-world concerns. Over seventy-five schools across the United States have expressed interest so far.

Kristy's interests are in creativity, problem-based learning, and teaching pedagogy.

Kristy is an identical twin, and she loves to hike, visit waterfalls, travel, cook, paint, and write. She has a son, Orion, who is named after the constellation.

Her favorite quote is from the poem "Litany" by Billy Collins, "You will always be the bread and the knife, not to mention the crystal goblet and—somehow—the wine."

Student Spotlight

W. Coleman Leopard

Undergraduate Student, Political Science, Business Management, and Business Law



William Coleman Leopard is a student here at WCU with a triple major in Political Science, Business Management, and Business Law. He is currently employed as a student worker in the Chancellor's Special Events Office.

In his spare time, William loves to travel and explore the world. He also enjoys attending professional and leadership development conferences.

William was awarded the E. Allen James outstanding undergraduate award for the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. This award recognizes the top undergraduate student out of all 115 chapters nationally.

Community involvement is important to William and he serves in several capacities on campus, such as: President for the Interfraternity Council, Secretary for the Chancellor's Ambassadors, and as Secretary for the Order of Omega.

William's favorite quote is, "The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have," by Vince Lombardi. He believes that no matter what we go through in life, we have to move forward and make the best situation out of what we may have.



Want to include news in next month's issue?
Please send information to scmelton@wcu.edu